



Several important events have taken place in the past year that move forward the process of environmental cleanup at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). This fact sheet describes the "Superfund" process, what has been done at JPL during the past year, what remains to be done and how the community will be kept informed of progress.

The Superfund Process

In October 1992, JPL was placed on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) National Priorities List, a list of the most serious, uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites that require remedial response under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act. In popular language, JPL became a "Superfund site."

The term "Superfund" refers to CERCLA, a law passed by Congress in 1980. In 1986, the law was amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA), which added provisions applicable to Federal facilities.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is the lead agency conducting the cleanup at the JPL site. In response to SARA, a preliminary assessment and site inspection was conducted in 1988, followed by an expanded site inspection in 1990. These studies indicated the presence of several industrial solvents in groundwater near JPL at levels above California drinking-water standards. These solvents include trichloroethylene (TCE), perchloroethylene (PCE), carbon tetrachloride (CTC) and 1,1-dichloroethane. The nearby public

drinking water supply wells were taken out of service when the industrial solvents were found at levels above State standards. Wells were returned to service after a water treatment system was installed.

With inclusion on the NPL, environmental cleanup at JPL will be overseen by EPA and the State, which includes the Department of Toxic Substances Control and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board. This will allow JPL and NASA to combine their efforts with the EPA and State agencies as the cleanup progresses.

To lay the groundwork for the cleanup process, NASA, EPA and the State negotiated a Federal Facilities Agreement (FFA) in December 1992 that covers how investigation and cleanup work will be conducted.

The next step in the cleanup process is the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS). During this phase, the site is carefully studied to determine where the contamination originated, how it is moving and how best to clean it up.

As part of the Feasibility Study (FS) process, NASA will evaluate various cleanup alternatives and determine the preferred cleanup action. Once

NASA has made this determination, the public will be asked to comment on all cleanup alternatives that are under consideration prior to the final alternative being selected.

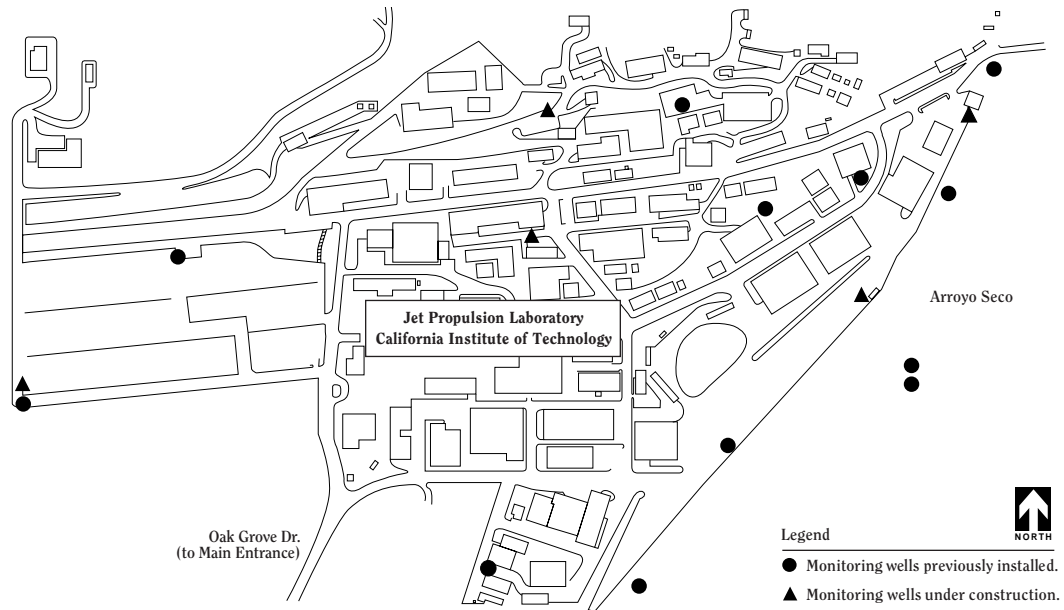
After the public comment period closes, NASA, with concurrence from EPA and the State, will select a cleanup remedy for the site. This remedy will be described in a document called the Record of Decision (ROD).

The Jet Propulsion Laboratory

JPL is a 176-acre research complex situated on the border between northwestern Pasadena and La Cañada Flintridge. The facility is owned by NASA. The California Institute of Technology is NASA's prime contractor at JPL.

As NASA's lead center for the exploration of the solar system with robotic space-craft, JPL has managed missions to the Moon and all the planets

The Jet Propulsion Laboratory occupies 176 acres in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains north of Pasadena and east of La Cañada Flintridge.



of the solar system except Pluto. It has also carried out spacecraft missions in astrophysics and Earth observation and has built sophisticated instruments — flown on satellites managed by other NASA centers and international space agencies — to study global climate change and ozone layer depletion. In addition, JPL carries out work for other Federal sponsors and conducts advanced technology studies in robotics, micro-electronics and high-performance computing.

Community Relations

As the cleanup effort progresses, NASA/JPL will keep JPL's neighbors informed of developments and will solicit community feedback. The local community will be asked to comment on all cleanup alternatives that are under consideration before a specific remedy is selected for implementation. As part of this community relations effort, information repositories containing copies of documents related to the cleanup will be maintained and updated at the following local sites.

- ***Pasadena Central Library***
285 East Walnut Street
Pasadena
- ***La Cañada Flintridge Public Library***
4545 West Oakwood Avenue
La Cañada Flintridge
- ***Altadena Public Library***
600 East Mariposa Street
Altadena

NASA

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Jet Propulsion Laboratory
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Pasadena, California
JPL 410-36-3 4/94